

Series of White House Meetings Taking Place

While Rep. Gutierrez Continues Tour

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Washington, DC) – Rep. Luis V. Gutierrez' national tour to spotlight deportations and the toll they take on American children and families continued this week to seven cities in California garnering extensive media coverage across the state. Each event features the stories of American citizens, legal permanent residents, and immigrants who face deportation themselves or whose loved ones do. The tour is designed to gather signatures on a petition to President Obama asking that he use powers already available to him under existing law to spare certain immigrants -- those with deep equities in the United States and without a criminal history -- from deportation. The U.S. is deporting people at a record rate and most of them have never been

convicted of a crime.

"You have to hear the stories from the families to appreciate the fear and despair being felt in communities," Rep. Gutierrez said. "The families and children they leave behind, the broken homes, and unfulfilled dreams are a national tragedy. It indicates to me that the President must address immigration sooner rather than later with the powers he already has under existing law."

President Obama has held a series of meetings on immigration at the White House; focusing on the need for legislation to fix broad issues related to enforcement, legal immigration, workers' rights, and the disposition of 11-12 million undocumented immigrants in the U.S. Most of these undocumented immigrants have lived in the U.S. for more than 10 years and 4 million U.S. citizen children have a parent who is in the U.S. illegally and subject to deportation.

"The President is right that we need legislation to change the laws so that they make sense in the 21st century and so that we have a legal immigration system people will use and that works for the American people," Rep. Gutierrez said. "Immigration policies are stuck in a rut based on the fantasy that 11-12 million undocumented immigrants and their families will be forced out, leave on their own, or magically disappear. It is hard to imagine GOP leaders would let anything other than deportation-only bills through the U.S. Congress in the next two years, so the focus naturally shifts where change is possible and that includes Department of Homeland Security policies and procedures under existing law."

The Congressman has frequently pointed to a leaked Administration memo (the "[Mayorkas memo](#)") that lays out several options the President has under existing law to prevent or deprioritize the deportations of certain individuals and remove barriers that prevent some individuals from getting legal and into the system.

"It is not just me who feels the President can act in a positive and fully legal manner to provide relief to immigrants in the U.S.," Rep. Gutierrez said. "I have been joined by Members of Congress at tour stops and there are an increasing number of lawmakers and their constituents calling on the President to use the administrative powers available to him."

This week, as part of a seven city California swing, events were held in **Redwood City** (Apr 26) attended by

Rep. Anna Eshoo

and other local officials;

San Jose

(Apr 26) attended by

Rep. Mike Honda

and other local officials;

San Francisco

(Apr 27) with City officials;

St. Helena/Napa County

(Apr 28) and

Oakland

(Apr 28).

It continues today (Apr 29) in **Oxnard/Ventura County** (5:30 p.m. town hall at Mary Star of the Sea, 463 W. Pleasant Valley Rd., Oxnard) and Saturday (Apr 30) in

Los Angeles

(11:00 a.m. town hall at St. Agatha's Church, 2646 S Mansfield Ave., Los Angeles). [The Congressman speaks at a rally in Adjuntas, Puerto Rico on May 1 at approximately 12:30 p.m. local time regarding the environmental impact of constructing a major natural gas pipeline on the Island.]

During the Congressman's tour, the main event in each city is a public meeting where U.S. citizens, DREAM Act students, and others testify about the impact roughly 400,000 deportations a year are having on their lives. Each event also includes petitions to President Obama asking him to use powers he has under existing law to provide relief to the families of U.S. citizens, DREAM Act students and their families, and other immigrants with deep roots in their communities.

UPCOMING TOUR EVENTS

(partial list)

- **South Bend, Indiana** (May 8);
- **Maui, Hawaii** (May 15);
- **Miami, Florida** (May 22);
- **Orlando, Florida** (May 23);
- **Reno, Nevada** (May 27); and
- **Van Nuys, California** (May 28).

SELECTED TV CLIPS

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- KSTS-TV San Francisco Bay Area (Telemundo) (Apr 28): <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LArh9XEhGzI>
- KGO-TV San Francisco (ABC) (Apr 27): <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FmykbjQWFS0>
- KNTV-TV San Francisco Bay Area (NBC) (Apr 27): <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n8RALJpj5aQ>
- Univision (Network) Despierta America (morning show) (Apr 27): <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N7uv2OH7ygo>
- KSTS-TV San Francisco Bay Area (Telemundo) (Apr 27): <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D89zi-vGUs4>
- WBTV-TV Charlotte (CBS) (Apr 20): "Immigration Issue to Spark Debate in Charlotte Tonight" <http://bit.ly/hAJaby>
- Fox News Channel (Network) (Apr 19): "Gutierrez: The President Needs to Demonstrate Action on Immigration" <http://bit.ly/fp8iXt>
- MSNBC/Andrea Mitchell Reports (Network) (April 19): "Rep. Gutierrez on 20-City Tour To Pressure WH on Immigration" <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kLmDTA36QjM>

SELECTED PRESS CLIPS

- **Oakland** (Apr 28): *San Jose Mercury News/Oakland Tribune/Contra Costa Times* (Apr 29) - "Latino congressman says Obama administration has failed on immigration" http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_17955029?nclick_check=1
- **San Francisco** (Apr 27): Bay City Newswire (Apr 27) - "Officials Call On Obama To Fix 'dysfunctional and unfair immigration system' From Steps Of SF City Hall" <http://bit.ly/mFDsH9>
- **San Jose** (Apr 26): *San Jose Mercury News* (Apr 23) - "Pushing Obama to keep promises" http://www.mercurynews.com/bay-area-news/ci_17916025
- **Redwood City** (Apr 26): *El Mensajero* (Apr 28) " Gutiérrez le pide acción a Obama" <http://bit.ly/kjm4n7>
- **Phoenix, Arizona** (Apr 23): *Phoenix New Times* - "Luis Gutierrez, Others Blast Barack Obama at April 23 Anti-SB 1070 March" (Apr 25): http://blogs.phoenixnewtimes.com/bastard/2011/04/luis_gutierrez_for_president_a.php
- **Charlotte, North Carolina** (Apr 20): *Charlotte Observer* - "'Moses of the Latinos' calls out for change" (Apr 21): <http://bit.ly/ituPx6>
- **Detroit, Michigan** (Apr 18): *Detroit News* (Apr 19) - "Crowd Calls For Reforms at ICE: <http://www.detnews.com/article/20110419/METRO/104190365/1409/metro/Crowd-calls-for-reforms-at-ICE>
- **Milwaukee, Wisconsin** (Apr 17): Wisconsin Public Radio - "Congressman calls on White House to ease up on deportations" (Apr 22): <http://ashlandcurrent.com/article/11/04/22/state-headlines-wisconsin-public-radio-april-22>
- **Chicago, Illinois** (Apr 16): Associated Press (Apr 16) - "Gutierrez: Support for Obama depends on reform" <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/sns-ap-il-immigration-gutierrez,0,1296327.story>
- **Houston/Austin/Dallas** (Apr 9-10): *Al Día* (Dallas/Ft. Worth) - "Piden poner fin a deportaciones" (Apr 13): <http://bit.ly/fnPPlo>
- **Boston, Massachusetts** (Apr 4): *Boston Globe* - "Call for change stirs East Boston immigrants" (Apr 4): <http://bo.st/iiSdUX>
- **Providence, Rhode Island** (Apr 3): *Providence Journal* - "Ill. congressman visits

Providence to talk about immigration policy" (Apr 3):

<http://bit.ly/f4Gv7A>

- **National Tour Launch** (Mar 31): Associated Press - "Families urge Obama to end deportations" (Apr 1): <http://fxn.ws/dWouuU>

- **Previous Press Releases:** http://www.gutierrez.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=639&Itemid=71

For more information on the remaining California events Apr 29-30, contact Jorge-Mario Cabrera at the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA).

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